GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:222
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
FOREST CONSERVATION
Chakrabortty Shri Swadesh;Mahato Shri Bir Sing;Ramadass Prof. M;Rana Shri Kashi Ram;Satheedevi Smt. P.;Seth Shri Lakshman Chandra

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest cover in some States has been constantly decreasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of forest cover in comparison to land area, State-wise;

(d) the details of the action plan formulated to increase the forest cover in various States and to obtain necessary financial assistance for this purpose; and

(e) the steps taken to promote community participation for preservation of forest cover?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State/Union Territory-wise percentage of forest cover in comparison to land area is given in the Annexure.

(d) The measures undertaken to increase the forest cover in the country are:

(i) Legal measures like Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Environmental Protection Act, 1986 and the rules, guidelines thereof.

(ii) Management measures like working of forests according to approved Working Plans, Forest Development Agencies and Joint Forest Management.

(iii) Financial measures like providing assistance to the States/Union Territories under centrally sponsored schemes and externally aided projects.

(iv) Afforestation programmes undertaken by the State Governments/ UT Administration from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(v) A network of protected areas has been established.

(vi) The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to constitute Coordination Committees of all departments owning lands, chaired by the Chief Secretary of concerned State to take up increased tree planting, to formulate and implement a communication strategy and a media plan to raise mass awareness for increased tree planting.

(e) During the 10th plan, National Afforestation Programme is being implemented through decentralized two-tier mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) at village level to elicit people's participation in afforestation programme.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE IN RESPECT OF PART (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 222 FOR 25.07.2005 REGARDING FOREST CONSERVATION

State/UTs	Geographic Area (in sq. km.)	Forest cover as per State Forest Report, 2003 (in Sq. km.)	Percentage of forest cover in comparison to land area (%)
Andhra Pradesh	2,75,069	44,419	16.15
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	68,019	81.22
Assam	78,438	27,826	35.48
Bihar	94,163	5,558	5.90
Chhattisgarh	1,35,191	55,998	41.42
Delhi	1,483	170	11.47
Goa	3,702	2,156	58.24
Gujarat	1,96,022	14,946	7.62
Haryana	44,212	1,517	3.43
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	14,353	25.78
Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236	21,267	9.57
Jharkhand	79,714	22,716	28.50
Karnataka	191,791	36,449	19.00
Kerala	38,863	15,577	40.08
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,245	76,429	24.79
Maharashtra	3,07,713	46,865	15.23
Manipur	22,327	17,219	77.12
Meghalaya	22,429	16,839	75.08
Mizoram	21,081	18,430	87.42
Nagaland	16,579	13,609	82.09
Orissa	1,55,707	48,366	31.06
Punjab	50,362	1,580	3.14
Rajasthan	3,42,239	15,826	4.62
Sikkam	7,096	3,262	45.97
Tamil Nadu	1,30,058	22,643	17.41
Tripura	10,486	8,093	77.18
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,118	5.86
Urraranchal	53,483	24,465	45.74
West Bengal	88,752	12,343	13.91
A & Nicobar Islands	8,249	6,964	84.42
Chandigarh	114	15	13.16
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	491	225	45.82
Daman & Diu	112	8.34	7.45
Lakshadweep	32	23	71.88
Pondicherry	480	40	8.33
Total	32,87,263	678,333	20.64